



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

Prelude in F Major

Flor Peeters

† Call to Worship

Jimmy Hall

Leader: People of faith, we are God's children.

People: We are God's family, God's own flesh and blood.

Leader: We are God's heirs, God's legacy.

People: We are beloved and redeemed, chosen and called.

Leader: We have nothing to fear, for in Christ, God's love is poured out upon us.

People: It is our joy to bear the family resemblance of Christ to the world.

All: Let our lives proclaim the truth that God is love and perfect love casts out fear.

† Hymn of Praise

#408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

*Refrain: Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.*

There are blessings you cannot receive,
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way." (Refrain)

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God, Jesus exhorts us to know what time it is, but the truth is that we are half-asleep, unaware of the urgency of Your call, oblivious to the haste of Your return, ignorant of the pressing need to make our time count. We absent-mindedly walk through our days, trusting in ourselves and our own abilities, deluded into thinking we are in control, sure there is time to deal with You "later." Forgive us, Lord! Later is now, and Your kingdom cannot wait. Sides must be chosen and allegiances declared. Wake us to the truth, give us courage for the choice, embolden us by Your mercy. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#581

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;
world without end. Amen, amen.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Rise Up Singing Praise

Dale Wood

Rise up singing praise to our God and our King, with hearts full of gladness for every good thing. The sunshine and rainbow, the river and sea, the meadow and forest the blossom and tree, the field and the harvest, the rainfall and snow, we thank you, our God for the gifts you bestow. The world gives its beauty, but God gave it birth; In love God created all good things on earth. How precious the raindrops from mountain to shore, God's food on the table, the crumbs on the floor. For gifts of God's bounty in us here below, We can't gather rainbows, but thanks we can show. With lives that are grateful, from hearts filled with praise, with love for our God who has blessed all our days.

Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson *(Carli Weston)*

1 Peter 1:1–9 (NRSV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the exiles of the dispersion...

² who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Although you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Psalm 95

#386

Come, Worship God

Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!

You are the rock of Your people's salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.

Ruled by Your might are the heights of the mountains;
held in Your hands are the depths of the earth.

Yours is the sea, Yours the land, for You made them,
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.

We are Your people, the sheep of Your pasture;
You are our Maker, and to You we pray.

Gladly we kneel in obedience before You;
great is the One whom we worship this day!

Now let us listen, for You speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what You say.
Peace be to all who remember Your goodness,
trust in Your word, and rejoice in Your way!

† **The Gospel Lesson**

John 15:1–17 (NRSV)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ² He removes every branch in Me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit He prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in Me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become My disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in My name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ! **P: Thanks be to God!**

Because He Has Chosen Us

✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠

† Hymn of Response

#703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me no thought can reach,
no tongue declare;

O knit my thankful heart to Thee, and reign without a rival there!
Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live; myself to Thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell,
but Thy pure love alone;

O may Thy love possess me whole, my joy,
my treasure, and my crown!

All coldness from my heart remove;
may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is Thy way!
All fear before Thy presence flies;
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er
Thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but Thee.

† Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer | The Lord's Prayer

Offering Acknowledgement *Special Offering: Organ Repair Fund*

† **Doxology**

#606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

† **Prayer of Dedication**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#730

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

Postlude

Max Jackson

Fantasia In C Major

J S Bach

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Larry Wilson*

Liturgist: *Jimmy Hall*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 77

General Offering: \$1,705.00

Backpack Ministry: \$2.10

Building Rent: \$100.00

Clean Start: \$91.18

Online Offering: \$725.00

Total Offering: \$2,623.28

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

● Sunday, October 13

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

Youth Group Meeting, 12:15 p.m.

● Monday, October 14

Ministry Teams Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

● Tuesday, October 15

Finance Ministry Team, 5:30 p.m.

● Wednesday, October 16

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

● Thursday, October 17

Paper Angels, 1 p.m.

Dames + Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

During the month of October, we are collecting small stuffed animals, craft kits, yo-yos, kaleidoscopes, Slinkys, balls

Pastor & Staff Appreciation Month AND Table & Treat

FPC Staff Appreciation Luncheon and Table & Treat is **Sunday, October 27 (NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE)** following morning worship. The menu is taco/salad bar with desserts and drinks. Appreciate our staff by gifting a “a bag of LOVE” with handwritten notes, small treats and gift cards. The red paper packages will be available every Sunday in October.

*****We are collecting candy for Table & Treat*****

Collecting Donations for Ashland Youth Service Center

We are again receiving donations for the Ashland Youth Services Center Thanksgiving Baskets, **October 13—November 10**. This is a wonderful outreach to many in our area who are struggling to make ends meet. Thank you for your giving spirit!



Instant Mashed Potatoes; Gravy; Stuffing; Biscuit or Roll Mix; Cranberry Sauce; Canned Green Beans; Cream of Mushroom Soup; Crispy Onion Straws; Canned Sweet Potatoes; Brown Sugar; Marshmallows; Pecans; Canned Corn; Pumpkin Pie Filling; Canned Milk; Coffee; Tea; Hot Cocoa Mix; Clothes Baskets

Stewardship Campaign for 2025



We are excited to announce that our Stewardship Emphasis for 2025 is **November 3—24, 2024**. Our theme for this year is Hope in the Lord, based on Jeremiah 29:11: “*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*” Please be in prayer for your response. You will receive a letter/commitment card in the mail by **November 1**. God continues to move within our congregation. May each of us give cheerfully this coming year and watch how God blesses us all!

Stewardship Speakers:

Sunday, Nov. 3—*Pam Potter*

Sunday, Nov. 10—*Jimmy Hall*

Sunday, Nov. 17—*Andrew Wheeler*

Sunday, Nov. 24—*Blythe Weston*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

cordially invites you to our

Crafternoon Party

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
12:15—2:30 P.M.

We will have craft demonstrations and stations to make & take:

- * Wreaths for Christmas or other holidays (*Kay Ferguson & Kelly Hanni*)
- * Paper Christmas Crafts (*Jane Justice & Pam Potter*)
- * Making homemade salad dressing (*Melissa Rigsby*)

Lunch: Pizza, Salad, Fruit, Cookies and Drinks
Childcare provided

Please RSVP by Friday, November 1

Bettie George Frye (606.831.8579) or Cathy Wilson (606.922.6425)

First Presbyterian Church Bethesda Community Hall
1600 Winchester Avenue, Ashland

A love offering will be received at the door to help with the cost.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints' Sunday is **November 3**. Please join us as we pay homage to our dearly departed saints and loved ones. If you have a loved one who has passed into the kingdom **within this last year**, please notify the Church office by **Sunday, October 27** for inclusion of his or her name in the bulletin.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending October 10, 2024

Family of Betty Kinner (Nanette)
Margaret Ruth (Kelly Hanni)

Week ending October 3, 2024

Darryl Akers (Heather Whitman's father)
Dave Eby
Gail Frazier (Nanette)
Max & Lois Jackson
Continued recovery efforts from Helene

Week ending September 26, 2024

Don and Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto (Bettie George Frye)
Amy Crookes
Roberta DePriest (Dave & Judy Eby's friend)
John Eby (Dave Eby's brother)
Nancy (Rick) Grace (Pastor Bill & Nanette)
Skip Sanders (Greg & Geri Willis' friend)
Linda Toland (Kay Ferguson's friend)
Nazym Willis (Kim Whitman's sister-in-law)

Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.

Ongoing: Pastor Bill; Gretchen Dillon; Bill Gesling; Charlie Holbrook; Kenny McGill; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

The Lantern: Barry Barbour, Carolyn Graber

Woodland Oaks: Bob Miller

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Kuwait); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
	*2nd term of service	

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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